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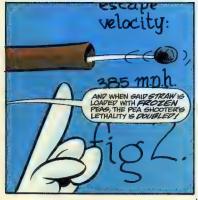
























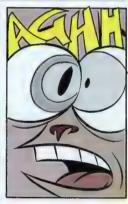


























STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi. Heroest

Remember a long, long time ago when kids wanted to grow up and become policemen, firemen or cowboys? Well, judging by the way my mail keeps pouring in, it seems as if a whole kaboodle of young people now want to become comicbook writers! Even though I've written many columns over the years trying to explain how comics are written, we keep getting requests for more infol

Obviously, there's no way to clue you in to the whole ball of wax in the small space available here, but let's see if we can zero in on one of the most important facets of comicbook writing; in fact, it's one of the most important elements of any type of writing. I'm referring to something that's too often overlooked in the continual effort to squeeze action and excitement into every panel. That something is - characterization!

Look at it this way. Every writer wants his or her readers to care about the story. Well, in order to care about a story you have to care about the hero or heroine. And in order to care about them, you have to feel as if you know them. If something happens to a stranger, it won't affect you very much. But if that same thing happens to a friend, to someone you know well, then you really care about it. The same rule applies to stories. The more you feel you know the principal characters, the more the story touches you.

That's where characterization comes You've got to write dialogue that's believable, that sounds the way people really talk. You've got to make your fictional little repertory group react to situations the way people would in real life. In other words, you've got to strive for as much realism as possible in everything that's said or done. Sure, the plots may be far-out and fantastic, but the characters must be true to life.

I could go on and on, but DeFalco just whispered, "Cool it, Stan! What if one of our competitors reads this stuff and learns something?" Tommy's got a point, so that's it for now, gang. take it from there!

Excelsion Stan Lee

'm not a super hero, but I play one in the movies! Nobody actually said good opening line to our page dealing with a visit from Alex Hyde-White, who plays Reed Richards in the upcoming FANTAS-TIC FOUR movie!

It seems Alex bumped into BARBIE editor Hildy Mesnik at a boxing match. and Hildy invited "Mr. Fantastic" to come see how Marvels are created first-hand.

that, but we thought it would make a

THE BULL'S EVE WELL... I'LL ADMIT...

British-born Alex, 34, said he's "played some big parts in small films" in the past, including Phantom of the Opera, Biggles, and Time Tracker. He was also in Pretty Woman and played young Sean Connery in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade! Although he has followed the FF comics somewhat, Alex said "I was particularly a fan of the FANTASTIC FOUR Hanna-Bar-bera cartoons of the sixties." Alex, who dyed his hair to play Reed, admitted that in his younger days, his favorite member of the team was actually Johnny Storm!

The FF movie features the origin of the team, their first battle with Doctor Doom, and the wedding of Reed and Sue. Alex had high praise for his co-stars in the movie, particularly Joseph Culp as Doctor Doom: "he has a heck of a good cos-turnel" Alex referred to the FF comics for inspiration: "It was great to be able to draw on such a store of knowledge!" Alex described the FF movie as "extremely

faithful" to the comics, adding, "whenever there was a question of how to do something, the answer was always, "Marvel wants it done this way!

Alex called Reed Richards "the best part I ever had. You couldn't beat it with a stick!" If the first movie does fantastic box office, Alex said "I would love to do more!" Alex says he particularly enjoyed the wed-ding scene with Rebecca Staab, who

plays Sue. The FF movie is due on Labor Day from Neue Constantin Films and Roger Corman's Concorde Films

One Marveloid who recently enjoyed a wedding scene of his own was Mariano ("I am not Fabian's brother, but I play one on TV") Nicieza of our Promotions Department. Mariano married the former Annemarie Murphy on March 6, after a courtship that the Big M said lasted "exactly five days!" (Apparently, once a gal has been marinated, she never goes back.) The best man was none other than Mariano's favorite brother, X-MEN and NEW WARRIORS writer Fabian himself!

Mariano's wedding was attended by more comic book legends than that of Reed and Sue Richards! As Mariano put it. "Everyone from the Marvel Universe was there!" Well, at least everyone from the Marvel Marketing, Promo and Sales Departments, as represented by Mark Erickson,

Jim Brennan, Craig Kunaschk, Sven Larsen, Lou Bank, Dean Rohlfing, Skip Dietz, and Bruce Costa. Others in attendance: editors Bobbie Chase, Bob Harras, and Glenn Herdling, artist Kevin Maquire, and our esteemed president Terry Stewart!

As long as we're dropping names. there are a few names we forgot to drop a while back. When we reported on people celebrating their fantastic five-year lunch with Marvel, a few of the names disappeared into the Negative Zone. So let's shoot some cosmic rays over to these titanic ten staffers: Brian Mitchell, Bob Lazzara, Jackie Bess, Laura Tims, Mari-lyn Adams, Sheree Lincoln, Helen Hron-cic, John Lewandowski, Monica Brown, and Joe Cucolo!

Sorry about the mix-up, gang! We'll send you all free tickets to the FF movie! Now, if you'll excuse us, we have to go catch a rocket launch

HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- 2099 UNLIMITED #1: Introducing
- Hulk 2099! Ain't he unglamorous?

 AIRTIGHT GARAGE #1 OF 4: We're having an Airtight Garage sale!

 ALIEN LEGION: ONE PLANET AT
- A TIME #1 of 3: The only out AVENGERS WEST COAST #96: An Infinity Crusade crossover!

 CABLE #3: Cable and Kane spit
- beer and secrets!

 CAGE #16: Everybody wants to cross over with Terror!

 CAPTAIN AMERICA #417: It's a jungle out there with Ka-Zar, Black Panther, and Terminus?!?
- DAREDEVIL #318: You begged for him -- you got him: the Stiftmant

 DARKHAWK #29: Can Chris save
- Dad from dying again? RKHAWK ANNUAL #2: Wake up! Here comes Dreamkiller!

 DARKMAN #4 of 6: The hero who
- if he wanted tol could be you — if he wanted
 NAMOR #40: The end of the NIGHTSTALKERS #9: With Morbius
- against Slaughter and Stonecold!

 NOMAD #15: The Hatemonger will hate you if you miss this issue!

 ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER #13: Take a gamble on Roulette!
- PUNISHER: ORIGIN OF MICRO-CHIP #1 of 2: Was it gamma rays -cosmic rays -- or something else? REN & STIMPY #8: The stuff that dreams are made of —the Maltese
- SHADOW RIDERS #2 of 4: For those of you who miss Team
- SHE-HULK #53: This just in ... She SPIDER-MAN 2099 #9: You
 - wouldn't believe how much the price of web fluid has gone upl SPIDER-MAN CLASSICS #4: Let's put our hands together for Doc
- THUNDERSTRIKE #2: With the power of the Executioner's blood-axe, Thundy battles Juggernautt
 UNCANNY X-MEN #302: The
- Upstarts return to start up trouble taken out a contract on Griff and Dane! (Not to be confused with
- WARLOCK CHRONICLES #1: Retelling the origin of Marvel's
- VEB OF SPIDER-MAN #102: We've almost reached the half point of Total Carnage!
- NADA: PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY ... INDIA: PRIME BULLPEN BORDERLINE BLATHER MINISTER P.V. NARASIMMA RAO ... ISRAEL: PRIME MINISTER













